NOTICE OF ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai, namely,

> " the situation created among the people of Travancore about the announcement made by the Indian Rubber Licensing Committee proposing to distribute the newly sanctioned area for India of 6400 acres, among the existing rubber estate owners, prohibiting other public from future plantation of rubber though new plantation is allowed to the existing rubber owners, making it a monopoly to them "

Will the Land Revenue Commissioner say whether there has been any such announcement ?

MR. K. GEORGE: This is the first time I hear of it.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: I shall read the copy of the announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

> "Under the Rubber Restriction Scheme to be continued after 1938 it has been proposed to permit new planting of rubber in India between 1st January 1939 and 31st December 1940 to the extent of 6400 acres which is equivalent to 5 per cent of the existing planted area in the country.
>
> The Indian Rubber Licensing Committee propose to distribute the whole of this area among planters in India who desire to extend their estates in their own lands, the allocation will be strictly in proportion to the recognised planted area now owned by the various applicants. Applications for new planting should be in the attached from and should reach the office of the Licensing Committee before the 31st August 1938. Applications received after that date will not be considered."
>
> P. KURIAN JOHN,
> *Controller.*
> I. R. L. Committee.
>
> Rubber Controller Office,
> Malankara Buildings,
> Kottayam.
> 15-7-1938.

PRESIDENT: This is the first time that the Government hears of that announcement and as materials for discussion are not available to the House. I regretfully disallow the motion although I see its importance and the reason for the Government to make a move in the matter.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE; REMISSION.

PRESIDENT: I have now to make an announcement which I am sure will be received with gratification by the members of this House and by the public of Travancore in general.

The Budget that has been presented has indicated that the prospects for the coming year are fairly bright, and that an aggregate

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[President.]

revenue of Rs. 261 lakhs is expected; and it has been stated that the Government consider it a conservative estimate. In these circumstances the Government have resolved to deal with the difficult plight to which many of the agriculturists of the State have been reduced on account of the agricultural slump and seasonal conditions, and the relief that could be given to them.

Owing to the gracious clemency of His Highness the Maharaja and His solicitude for His subjects, His Highness' Government are able to make the following announcement:

Having regard to the financial position of the State and the prospects as disclosed by the Budget, and with a view to the special difficulties confronting the population of the State depending on agriculture as a vocation during the year, Government are anxious to afford substantial relief to the ryots, especially those who belong to the poorer section. Government have therefore come to the conclusion that the following concessions may be granted:

(*a*) Remission of 50 per cent of the current arrears for 1113 under Ayacut outstanding on the last day of Karkadagom 1113 in respect of all Pattadars paying a land tax of Re. 1 and below.

The concession is not applicable to old arrears pertaining to years from 1112 backwards, as remission of some kind or other was allowed in some of those years.

(*b*) A general remission of 12½ % in regard to the remaining tax payers in respect of the current Ayacut arrears for 1113 outstanding collection on the last day of Karkadagom 1113.

(*c*) As a very special case, complete remission of land tax on current arrears of Ayacut revenue for 1113 outstanding on the last day of Karkadagom 1113 in respect of Pattadars paying a land tax of 1 chuckram and below.

These are very substantial concessions, and in granting them His Highness' Government are anxious that the benefit should reach the poor who are really in distress.

This concession will not be extended to proprietors of large estates or Pattadars of tea, rubber and cardamom estates.

Further details of this scheme of remission will be worked out by the Land Revenue Commissioner.

I am sure that the honourable members of this House will join with me in realising that this concession marks the kindness manifested by His Highness towards His subjects; that it is timely and calculated to bring relief to those people who are really suffering from the various difficulties confronting them owing to weather and seasonal conditions.

These remissions are the result of the special conditions of to-day and are not to be regarded as a precedent.

VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE AND TAXES ON INCOME.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 10,54,614, under Demand I—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income.

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